

ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS

At page 21, lines 2-9, please insert the following paragraph:

~~We have developed two new~~ Novel PCR based assays to detect Orthopoxvirus DNA have been developed which when tested under simulated clinical conditions, have proven to be very sensitive, rapid and robust. Furthermore, ~~Importantly, we were able to construct~~ artificial templates have been constructed which can be used ~~for use~~ as positive controls in the RFLP analysis necessary to differentiate variola and monkeypox viruses from the Orthopoxvirus species that normally cause relatively insignificant disease in man. These ~~Our~~ assays will provide a lab that has already undertaken the isolation of DNA from a patient sample in biocontainment, with a sensitive and controlled assay for the detection and differentiation of human-tropic orthopox viruses.